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Commonwealth's Attorney.

HARDWAY & PAYNE,

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,

Rooms Nos. 4 and 6 Kirk Building,

Roanoke, Va.

P. H. DILLARD. J. P. LEE. J. D. SMITH

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,

Terry Building, Roanoke, Va. 10 20 1y

J. E. YONGE,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,

Office: 616 Sixth floor, Terry Building

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CHARLES C. HERING,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,

Roanoke, Va.

Room 3, Kirk Building. 6 14

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ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Roanoke, Va.

Room No. 14, New Kirk Building, op-

posite Kenney's tea store. 0014-1f

J. ALLEN WATTS. WM. GORDON ROBERTSON.

EDWARD W. ROBERTSON.

WATTS, ROBERTSON & ROBERTSON.

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW,

Room 601-2-4 Terry Building.

8 4f

W. S. GOOCH,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,

National Exchange Bank's Building,

Room 12. 15 1f

S. GRIFFIN. WM. A. GLASSOW, Jr.

S. GRIFFIN & GLASSOW,

Attorneys-at-law, rooms 611, 613 and

614, Terry building, Roanoke, Va. Prac-

tice in courts of Roanoke city and

county and adjoining counties

jan20-1f

B. E. SCOTT. A. P. STAPLES.

SCOTT & STAPLES, attorneys-

at-law, Roanoke, Va. Office: Terry

Building. 5 14 1f

EVERETT PERKINS,

Attorney-at-law and Commissioner

in Chancery.

Look box 110, Roanoke, Va. Room 10,

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THE BASEBALL OUTLOOK

Caylor Describes the Recent Changes in the Rules.

THE BUNT HIT AND TRAPPED BALL

Hereafter a Foul Bunt Hit Will Count as a Strike—A Fly Ball to the Infield Is Out, Whether Caught or Not, If the Fielder Reaches It.

The month of March is the period when professional and amateur baseball players prepare for the work of the season just ahead. In little more than a month championship games will be daily events. Meanwhile the clubs are gathering together their teams, fitting up their grounds and boasting of their prospects. Anson beat two suits of clothes last week on his belief in his Colts, and so the preliminary season in baseball may be said to be open.

About the first of the major teams to appear on the diamond will be the St. Louis Browns. Mr. Von der Ahe, like the loyal Irishman he is, has arranged a game in St. Louis for St. Patrick's day in the afternoon. Mr. Von der Ahe has always been considered a shrewd manager, and this last bid for the Irish patronage does him credit.

Several of the League teams will report at Hot Springs within the next fortnight, the champion Bostonians will make a trip down into Virginia, and a few teams will train at home. The Southern League has scheduled its championship season to begin April 11. The National League opens its race April 19, and the Eastern and the Western leagues begin operations about May 1.

Every indication points to a wonderfully prosperous season throughout the United States. The National League, Eastern League, New England League, Southern League, Western League, Western association, Pennsylvania State League and several minor state leagues are already fully organized and equipped and are preparing for championship struggles. One of the most distinctive proofs of the spreading popularity of the national game is the fact that while the Mississippi valley last year had no minor baseball organization that vast territory this year will have two powerful club combinations—the Western League and the Western association.

The announcement that the National League clubs paid off nearly \$100,000 of indebtedness last year, and that almost every one of them made money besides in the face of a business depression, showed how the interest in the game was growing. It is not a rash prediction to say that the incoming season of 1904 will be as prosperous and notable as was that of 1899, when the sport reached its high tide of popularity.

The attendance upon the schedule meeting of the National League in New York on Feb. 26 and 27 was most significant. Newspapers from Boston, Washington, Louisville, Chicago and other cities sent staff reporters to the meeting, though nearly all had resident correspondents on hand.

At this meeting several changes were made in the playing rules which will interest every baseball player or reader in the Union, because the National League playing rules are the standard of play in every section of the land. The bunt hit was penalized. Hereafter whenever a batsman attempts to bunt the ball and it rolls foul he will be charged with a strike. The object of the penalty strikes in two directions. It handicaps a few skilled men who misused the play to foul off every fairly pitched ball until they got their base on balls. Latham, Hamilton and Duffy were three of these "bunt killers." It will also discourage those batsmen who wasted much time last year and exhausted the patience of spectators by trying to bunt when they couldn't.

Then the trap ball was killed by a new rule, which declares that the batsman shall be out on a fly ball to the infield if an infielder can reach the fly in time, whether he catches it or not. This new rule was aimed particularly at McPhee of the Cincinnati and Fred Pfeffer of the Louisville, who, to use the language of the boys on the sun seats, "had a play down line as silk and made suckers out of guys on de bases. See?" When an infield fly went to either of those two players, men on bases were "twixt his satanic majesty and the fathomless ocean. If they stood still, the fly would be dropped, and they would be forced; if they ran, the fly would be caught, and so the magnates found it necessary to legislate against those two great players.

Another new rule provides that when a batsman is hit by a ball at which he strikes he shall not get a base, as heretofore, but it will be called a strike. Those were the two important changes made in the rules.

The League magazines did a most popular thing when they created the office of chief of the umpires and appointed Harry Wright to fill it. In this honoring the veteran manager baseball was also honored. For 25 consecutive years Mr. Wright has been actively associated with professional ball. He played his first game with the Knickerbockers of New York in 1856. He was captain of the famous Cincinnati Red Stockings of 1870-71. Then he went to Boston and managed their champion team for nearly half a score of years. From Boston he went to Providence for a couple of seasons and then took hold of and built up the Philadelphia team. In his long career in baseball he has never done a dishonorable act and is universally beloved by the public and the players. His new duties will be to watch the work of the umpires and see that no incompetent man remains on the staff.

The biggest "deal" of the season was the purchase of the release of Farrell and Meekin by the New Yorks from the Washingtons. The price was \$7,500 cash and two good players "to boot"—namely, Catcher McMahon and Pitcher Petty. The addition of these two men and Van Haltern to the New York team, it is generally believed, makes "the Giants" a formidable bidder for pennant honors in 1904.

Pitcher Pete McNabb, who recently shot a young woman in Pittsburgh and then blew out his own brains, was considered a half way crank when he pitched for the Baltimore last year. I believe he is the first baseball player of any prominence to commit suicide. As a rule, your baseball player thinks too much of his brains to blow them out, so long as there are such things in the land as baseball contracts, managers and vacancies. McNabb made his fame in California in 1892 and was signed by the Baltimore at Van Haltern's suggestion.

Times cannot be as hard in the west as the newspapers report. A contract was mailed to Pitcher Amos Rusie at Indianapolis a month ago guaranteeing to him \$3,000 for six months' hard labor on the ballfield in New York. He was seen to take the contract out of the postoffice. He can read. He can also sign his name without biting off his tongue. And yet that contract, unlike the cash, hasn't come back. Mr. Rusie is not pinched by the business depression.

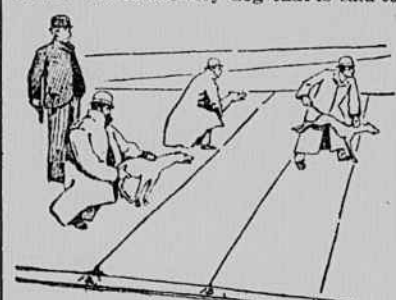
O. P. CAYLOR.

LONDON'S DOG SPRINTERS.

Novel Races Between Whippets Now Popular in the British Metropolis.

Dog racing is London's latest sporting fad, and as it does not injure the dogs, is not at all brutal and affords entertainment to the owners of the dogs and their friends it is certainly a great improvement on dog fighting. The genuine racing dog is called a whippet and is the offspring of a greyhound and a terrier. Just such as the whippet is called the "Italian" in the north of England, the greyhound originally bred from was doubtless the Italian greyhound.

Lancashire, Yorkshire and Northumberland are the counties where whippet racing has flourished for a long time past, the miners being liberal patrons of the sport. Indeed this is the very dog that is said to



START OF A DOG RACE.

be fed on choice cuts of butcher's meat while the miner's children starve. Rabbit coursing and dog racing are equally patronized, the larger whippets being used for the rabbit chasing. The casual observer might well be excused for confounding a large whippet with a small greyhound.

The dogs are handicapped according to their weight and sometimes according to their past performances. They are held on their respective marks at the start by trainers and are released at the crack of the pistol. At the end of the course their owners are stationed, and these worthies incite the dogs to show their best speed by calling to them and frantically waving handkerchiefs, coats and stuffed rabbits.

Carpenter Nordstrom's Great Feat.

J. W. Kennedy earned the title of strong man by lifting The Police Gazette dumbbell, which weighs 1,205 pounds. At the Grand Opera House in Brooklyn recently he offered on behalf of Richard K. Fox \$500 to any other man who could lift it. A big blond young man in his working clothes walked up on the stage, pulled off his coat and lifted the big dumbbell clear off the floor two inches. Then he repeated the feat twice, while the audience cheered.

The big blond young man was Charles O. J. Nordstrom, who was born in Gotland, Sweden, 27 years ago, but has lived in this country 11 years and has been an American citizen five years. His home is at 634 Fourth avenue, Brooklyn, and he is a carpenter. He is 5 feet 10 inches high and weighs 218 pounds. His arm above the elbow has a girth of 10½ inches. His chest measures 39 inches, but when expanded 47 inches. With one hand he can raise a 140 pound dumbbell above his head. He tried to get on the Brooklyn police force recently. He has a powerful pull, but probably it was of the wrong kind.

"I have been to see Sandow and have watched him carefully," said Nordstrom. "With training I can do anything he can, and more too."

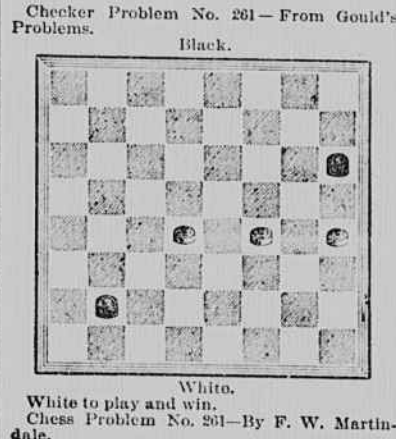
Games Won and Lost by the Big Three.

Some lover of billiards who has closely followed the sport has figured that since 1871 Jacob Schaefer has won 30 games to George F. Slosson's 19 at all styles of billiards. At the straight rail games Slosson has won 4 games to Schaefer's 3; at the champion's game, which provides for triangular balk lines drawn on the cloth at each corner of the table, Slosson has won 4, Schaefer 2; at balk line billiards Slosson has won 8, Schaefer 13; at cushion caroms, Slosson has won 3, Schaefer 2.

As between Ives and Schaefer, since Ives became a phenomenal player, Schaefer has won three and Ives three. They have met only at the balk line game of billiards. The issue between Slosson and Ives, since the latter has met all comers, is four for Ives and one for Slosson at balk line game only.

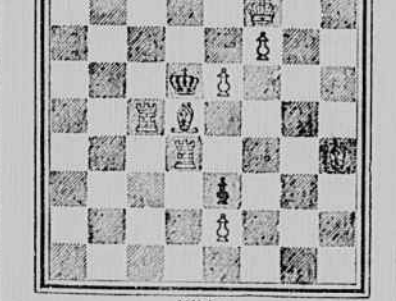
CHECKERS AND CHESS.

Checker Problem No. 261—From Gould's Problems.



White to play and win.

Chess Problem No. 261—By F. W. Martinale.



White to play and make three moves.

White.	Black.
1. P to e3	1. ...
2. P to e4	2. ...
3. P to e5	3. ...
4. P to e6	4. ...
5. P to e7	5. ...
6. P to e8	6. ...
7. P to e9	7. ...
8. P to e10	8. ...
9. P to e11	9. ...
10. P to e12	10. ...
11. P to e13	11. ...
12. P to e14	12. ...
13. P to e15	13. ...
14. P to e16	14. ...
15. P to e17	15. ...
16. P to e18	16. ...
17. P to e19	17. ...
18. P to e20	18. ...
19. P to e21	19. ...
20. P to e22	20. ...
21. P to e23	21. ...
22. P to e24	22. ...
23. P to e25	23. ...
24. P to e26	24. ...
25. P to e27	25. ...
26. P to e28	26. ...
27. P to e29	27. ...
28. P to e30	28. ...
29. P to e31	29. ...
30. P to e32	30. ...
31. P to e33	31. ...
32. P to e34	32. ...
33. P to e35	33. ...
34. P to e36	34. ...
35. P to e37	35. ...
36. P to e38	36. ...
37. P to e39	37. ...
38. P to e40	38. ...
39. P to e41	39. ...
40. P to e42	40. ...
41. P to e43	41. ...
42. P to e44	42. ...
43. P to e45	43. ...
44. P to e46	44. ...
45. P to e47	45. ...
46. P to e48	46. ...
47. P to e49	47. ...
48. P to e50	48. ...
49. P to e51	49. ...
50. P to e52	50. ...
51. P to e53	51. ...
52. P to e54	52. ...
53. P to e55	53. ...
54. P to e56	54. ...
55. P to e57	55. ...
56. P to e58	56. ...
57. P to e59	57. ...
58. P to e60	58. ...
59. P to e61	59. ...
60. P to e62	60. ...
61. P to e63	61. ...
62. P to e64	62. ...
63. P to e65	63. ...
64. P to e66	64. ...
65. P to e67	65. ...
66. P to e68	66. ...
67. P to e69	67. ...
68. P to e70	68. ...
69. P to e71	69. ...
70. P to e72	70. ...
71. P to e73	71. ...
72. P to e74	72. ...
73. P to e75	73. ...
74. P to e76	74. ...
75. P to e77	75. ...
76. P to e78	76. ...
77. P to e79	77. ...
78. P to e80	78. ...
79. P to e81	79. ...
80. P to e82	80. ...
81. P to e83	81. ...
82. P to e84	82. ...
83. P to e85	83. ...
84. P to e86	84. ...
85. P to e87	85. ...
86. P to e88	86. ...
87. P to e89	87. ...
88. P to e90	88. ...
89. P to e91	89. ...
90. P to e92	90. ...
91. P to e93	91. ...
92. P to e94	92. ...
93. P to e95	93. ...
94. P to e96	94. ...
95. P to e97	95. ...
96. P to e98	96. ...
97. P to e99	97. ...
98. P to e100	98. ...
99. P to e101	99. ...
100. P to e102	100. ...

Checker Problem No. 260.

White.	Black.
1. K to P	1. ...
2. K to R	2. ...
3. K to B	3. ...
4. K to Q	4. ...
5. K to A	5. ...
6. K to H	6. ...
7. K to G	7. ...
8. K to F	8. ...
9. K to E	9. ...
10. K to D	10. ...
11. K to C	11. ...
12. K to B	12. ...
13. K to A	13. ...
14. K to H	14. ...
15. K to G	15. ...
16. K to F	16. ...
17. K to E	17. ...
18. K to D	18. ...
19. K to C	19. ...
20. K to B	20. ...
21. K to A	21. ...
22. K to H	22. ...
23. K to G	23. ...
24. K to F	24. ...
25. K to E	25. ...
26. K to D	26. ...
27. K to C	27. ...
28. K to B	28. ...
29. K to A	29. ...
30. K to H	30. ...
31. K to G	31. ...
32. K to F	32. ...
33. K to E	33. ...
34. K to D	34. ...
35. K to C	35. ...
36. K to B	36. ...
37. K to A	37. ...
38. K to H	